

PATENT APPEAL  
Technology Center 3600

Application No. 09/045,036  
Attorney Docket No.: 97-558

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appellants: Jay S. Walker, Andrew S. Van  
Luchene

) Group Art Unit: 3622

Application No.: 09/045,036

) Examiner: John L. Young

Filed: March 20, 1998

) **REPLY BRIEF**

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
FACILITATING THE PLAY OF  
FRACTIONAL LOTTERY TICKETS  
USING POINT-OF-SALE  
TERMINALS

) Attorney Docket No. 97-558

) Customer No. 22927

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Dated: October 31, 2003 By:

*Veronika S. Leliever*  
Veronika S. Leliever

**BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner:

Appellant hereby replies to the Examiner's Answer mailed September 16, 2003 (Paper  
No. 18).

PATENT APPEAL  
Technology Center 3600

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Appellants respectfully address the following issues which were raised by the Examiner's Answer.

Contents of Examiner's Answer

Pages 4 - 24 of the Examiner's Answer are a duplicate of pages 3 - 22 of the Final Office Action mailed June 25, 2002. These rejections have been addressed by the Appeal Brief filed June 30, 2003 (Paper No. 17).

Likewise, pages 25 - 45 are arguments which are set forth almost identically in the Final Office Action. Thus, almost all of these arguments have been addressed by the Appeal Brief filed June 30, 2003.

Those portions of the Examiner's Answer which are not identically set forth in the Final Office Action are addressed below.

Appellants note that several arguments presented in the Appeal Brief have not been addressed by the Examiner's Answer. Other arguments presented in the Appeal Brief have been merely disputed without any reasoning or support at all. Still other arguments presented in the Appeal Brief have not been rebutted with anything except general statements regarding, e.g., the law of obviousness.

Examiner's Answer, page 25, paragraph 1

The Examiner contends that the allegations in the Appeal Brief of no prima facie case of unpatentability amount to "a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references." Apparently, the implication is that Appellants have somehow failed to make some required showing.

This is clearly incorrect for two reasons. First, if a prima facie case has not been made, Appellants have absolutely no obligation to specifically indicate patentability. Second, Appellants have nevertheless clearly indicated how the claims distinguish from the references.

Regarding the first reason, if a prima facie case of unpatentability has not been made, then without more the applicant is entitled to grant of the patent. In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443,

PATENT APPEAL  
Technology Center 3600

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Attorney Docket No.: 97-558

1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (emphasis added). The Appeal Brief, Section 1.3, pages 15 - 16 contains authorities and arguments for this proposition. Since the absence of a prima facie case of unpatentability mandates that a patent be granted, Appellants have no additional duty to demonstrate patentability since the prima facie case has not been made.

Regarding the second reason, Appellants have, in any event, clearly indicated how the claims distinguish from the references. The Appeal Brief contains, for each Group of claims, sections which demonstrate the advantages of various limitations of the claims (Sections 1.2, 2.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5.2, 6.2, 7.2, 8.2, 9.2, 10.2, 11.2 and 12.2) and why the limitations are not suggested by the references, alone or in combination (Sections 1.3 et seq., 2.3 et seq., 3.3 et seq., 4.3 et seq., 5.3 et seq., 6.3 et seq., 7.3 et seq., 8.3 et seq., 9.3 et seq., 10.3 et seq., 11.2 et seq. and 12.2 et seq.).

Examiner's Answer, page 28, paragraph 2

The Examiner contends that "the features upon which Appellant [sic] relies (e.g., 'a 26% share of a \$1 lottery ticket ...' etc.) are not recited in rejected claim 1."

However, nowhere in the Appeal Brief have Appellants relied upon this or any other limitations not explicitly recited in the claims. The portions of the Appeal Brief cited by the Examiner are clearly indicated as examples only of the arguments which precede them.

Examiner's Answer, page 29, paragraph 3 - page 30, paragraph 1

Examiner's Answer, page 31, paragraph 4 - page 32, paragraph 1

The Examiner refers to specific portions of Storch as showing "coding of lottery tickets" or "coding of lottery tickets with identifiers". The Examiner then interprets these portions as suggesting the entirety of claim 1. No further clarification is provided, and there is no further rebuttal of the arguments presented in the Appeal Brief regarding the patentability of claim 1.

Section 1.3.1 of the Appeal Brief (pages 17 - 20) discusses these cited portions of Storch, and the failure of Storch to suggest the limitations of claim 1.

PATENT APPEAL  
Technology Center 3600

Application No. 09/045,036  
Attorney Docket No.: 97-558

Examiner's Answer, page 33, paragraphs 1 - 3

In a similar assertion, the Examiner refers to specific portions of Storch as showing "coding of lottery tickets with identifiers". The Examiner then interprets these portions as suggesting "storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier". No further clarification is provided, and there is no further rebuttal of the arguments presented in the Appeal Brief regarding the patentability of claim 1.

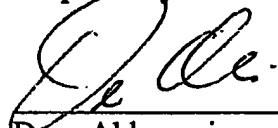
Section 1.3.3 of the Appeal Brief (pages 21 - 22) discusses these cited portions of Storch, and the failure of Storch to suggest "storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier".

**CONCLUSION**

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact Dean Alderucci using the information provided below.

October 31, 2003  
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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